

DEALING with DOUBT.

Suffering – Part of the human experience.

Question: “Who’s fault is it?”

God’s answer:

“Remember who YOU are and who I am.”

“My ways are higher than your ways ... my thoughts Higher than your thoughts.”

We ask WHY ...

“Maybe sometimes God keeps us in the dark about “WHY” ... not so much because He wants to keep us in the dark, but because He knows we are incapable of absorbing so much light.” -- Phillip Yancey

To explain SUFFERING and Evil ... must understand FREE WILL.

“And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.’” Gen 2:16-17

Why didn’t God create a perfect world? HE DID.

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.” Romans 5:12

WHAT’S THE POINT OF Problems and pain?

“God whispers to us in our pleasures. He speaks to us in our conscience, but he shouts to us in our pain. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” -- CS Lewis (Problem of Pain)

“...that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” Matt 5:45

“EVERY PROBLEM, TRIAL HAS A PURPOSE”

(Rick Warren’s list)

1. God can use trials to DIRECT me.

“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.” Prov 20:30, GNT

2. God can use trials to INSPECT me.

“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.”

James 1:2-3, NLT

3. God can use trials to CORRECT me.

“The punishment you gave me was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws. They are more valuable to me than millions in silver and gold!”

Psalms 119:71-72, LB

4. God can use trials to PROTECT me.

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." Gen. 50:20, NIV

5. God uses problems to PERFECT me.

"We can rejoice when we run into problems, they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady." Rom. 5:3-4, LB

Why let suffering continue?

"The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent." 2 Peter 3:9, NLT

Best Part – HEAVEN!

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